

Review of Lesson 1 Introduction **The Millennium The Family Reunion of Jesus with Israel**

### **Study Preview**

**Jesus had been alive for 40 days and had been teaching the disciples “things pertaining to the Kingdom.”**

**The only thing they knew to ask about was what Jesus talked about for the last five weeks.**

Acts 1:6 “wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?”

**Did Jesus rebuke them or tell them that there would be no kingdom? NO** Act 1:7 “And he said unto them, **It is not for you to know the times or the seasons**, which the Father hath put in his own power, but ye shall receive power... and ye shall be witnesses unto me...”

**Jesus Answer in Acts 1 - I will not restore the Kingdom to Israel at this time.**

He did NOT say: I will not be the King of Israel. Or...I will not restore the Kingdom to Israel

He DID say: He will restore a Kingdom to the nation Israel. It is in the Father’s timing as to when.

**Jesus had already taught them in Matthew 24,25 in answer to their question...**

Matt 24:3 “Tell us, when shall these things be? and what *shall be* the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world? His Answer : 24:21 For then shall be great tribulation, Jesus will come to set up His Kingdom after the horrible Great Tribulation.

### **Five Categories of People in the Millennium**

Resurrected O.T. Saints – **immortals**. (Daniel 12:1-3); Resurrected N.T. Saints – **immortals** (1 Thess. 4:13)

Resurrected Tribulation Saints – **immortals** (Revelation 6:9-11: 20:4); Redeemed Tribulation Survivors – **mortals** (Matt 25:33-40); Unsaved Millennials – **mortals born during the Millennium** (Rev 20:7,8).

**Drastically changed conditions within Nature** (Ezek. 39:9-12; Zech. 14:4-9)

### **The Missing Link of of Israel in understanding the Kingdom passages of Scripture**

#### **The Consistent Kingdom Message of the Prophets, John, Jesus and the Apostles**

The Old Testament is filled with references to an everlasting Kingdom of Israel ruled by God on earth through His Anointed One (Messiah) defined by the terms - “forever” 19 times; “everlasting” 5 times; “no end” 1 time.

#### **First mention of an everlasting Kingdom, as Promised to David**

2 Samuel 7:12,13,16 “I will set up thy seed after thee, which shall proceed out of thy bowels, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build an house for my name, and **I will stablish the throne of his kingdom for ever**. And **thine house and thy kingdom shall be established for ever** before thee: **thy throne shall be established for ever.**”

#### **Second mention of an everlasting Kingdom, as Promised to Solomon**

1 Kings 9:5 “Then **I will establish the throne of thy kingdom upon Israel for ever**, as I promised to David thy father, saying, There shall not fail thee a man upon the throne of Israel.”

- **The Davidic Covenant contained four promises.**
- **An eternal house/dynasty, kingdom, and an eternal descendant**

#### **Other mentions of an everlasting Kingdom**

Daniel 4:3,34 “How great *are* his signs! and how mighty *are* his wonders! his kingdom *is* an **everlasting kingdom**, and his dominion *is* from generation to generation. And at the end of the days I

Nebuchadnezzar lifted up mine eyes unto heaven, and mine understanding returned unto me, and I blessed the most High, and I praised and honoured him that liveth for ever, **whose dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom is from generation to generation.**"

### **The Kingdom pronouncement at Jesus' birth**

Luke 1:32 "He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him **the throne of his father David**: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and **of his kingdom there shall be no end.**" And again prophesied at His circumcision. (Luke 2:25)

### **John the Baptist preached it's imminent commencement**

Matthew 3:1 "In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, And saying, Repent ye: for **the kingdom of heaven is at hand.**"

### **John the Baptist continued the O.T. expectation**

Matthew 11:12 "from the days of John the Baptist until now **the kingdom of heaven** suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force. For **all the prophets and the law prophesied until John.**" (Matthew 17:10-13; Malachi 4:5,6)

**Jesus preached it's immanency** "Repent: for **the kingdom of heaven is at hand.**" (Matthew 4:17)

### **The Disciples of Jesus expected it**

"He spake a parable, because he was nigh to Jerusalem, and **because they thought that the kingdom of God should immediately appear.**" (Luke 19:11)

### **The Kingdom Offer announced by Jesus**

"go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. And as ye go, preach, saying, **The kingdom of heaven is at hand.**" (Matthew 10:6,7) "He turned him unto *his* disciples, and said privately, Blessed *are* the eyes which see the things that ye see: For I tell you, that **many prophets and kings have desired to see those things which ye see.**" (10:23-25)

### **THE LITERAL KINGDOM WAS OFFERED BY THE ONE ANOINTED TO BE KING**

Matthew 12:22-25 "And all the people were amazed, and said, **Is not this the son of David?** But when the Pharisees heard *it*, they said, This *fellow* doth not cast out devils, but by Beelzebub the prince of the devils. And Jesus knew their thoughts, and said unto them, Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand."

### **THE LITERAL & KINGDOM & PROPHESED KING WAS REJECTED by Israel's leaders.**

Matthew 12:28-31 "And if I by Beelzebub cast out devils, by whom do your children cast *them* out? therefore they shall be your judges. But **if I cast out devils by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God is come unto you.** Wherefore I say unto you, All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but **the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men.**"

### **Jesus clarified their resulting judgment.**

Matthew 21: 38- 43 "Therefore say I unto you, **The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof.**"

"**This text does not affirm that the Kingdom will be taken away from the nation of Israel and given to a nation which is another nation racially and politically.** He was speaking to the "chief priests and the elders" (Matt. 21:43), in whom civil and religious authority was vested and who were determined to

destroy Him, as distinguished from the “multitude” who on the previous day had actually acclaimed Him as the Messianic “son of David” (Matt. 21:9,45-4); “they perceived that he spake of them.” Therefore, the correct sense of the passage must be found in the historical situation: The nation as represented by it’s then existing rulers had rejected the King, therefore the Kingdom is taken from them.” Alva J. McClain, *The Greatness of the Kingdom*, p 296 **This Kingdom will be given to a new nation/generation of Israel that will be rebirthed in future history.** (Isaiah 66:8-13)

#### THE LITERAL KINGDOM OF ISRAEL WAS POSTPONED

Matthew 23:37-39 “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, *thou* that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under *her* wings, and ye would not! **Behold, your house is left unto you desolate.**” (referring to the Kingdom of the House of David) “For I say unto you, Ye shall not see me henceforth, till ye shall say, Blessed *is* he that cometh in the name of the Lord.”

Matthew 24:2 “Jesus said unto them, See ye not all these things? verily I say unto you, **There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down.**”

Luke 19:41-44 “when he was come near, he beheld the city, and wept over it, Saying, **If thou hadst known, even thou, at least in this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace!** but now they are hid from thine eyes. And shall lay thee even with the ground, and thy children within thee; and they shall not leave in thee one stone upon another; **because thou knewest not the time of thy visitation.**”

#### THE LITERAL KINGDOM WAS EXPECTED, OFFERED, REJECTED AND POSTPONED

“It has been universally admitted that the Jews held to a personal coming of the Messiah, the literal restoration of the Davidic throne and the kingdom, the personal reign of Messiah on David’s throne and the resultant exaltation of Jerusalem. It is also acknowledged that the utterances of Luke 1:71; Acts 1:6; Luke 2:26, 30 include the above belief, and that at least to the day of Pentecost, the Jews, the disciples and even the apostles held to such a view.” G.N.H. Peters. **They were not corrected by Jesus when voicing this expectation even up to the moment of His ascension.** Acts 1:5-7

(Lessons from “*Thy Kingdom Come*”. [www.jewishawareness.org](http://www.jewishawareness.org) School of Biblical and Jewish Studies)

#### Critical distinctions about the Kingdom program from the book, ISRAELOLOGY by Arnold Fruchtenbaum

“Unfortunately many Dispensationalists have tried to explain the different facets by making a distinction between the terms “Kingdom of God,” and “Kingdom of Heaven.” These are interchangeable terms as any parallel study of the synoptic gospels will clearly show. **In the very same places where Mark and Luke use “Kingdom of God,” Matthew uses “Kingdom of Heaven.”** In fact Kingdom of Heaven is used exclusively by Matthew (see Matthew 13, Mark 4, Luke 8). The reason Matthew used “Kingdom of Heaven” is because he was writing his gospel to the Jews. Jewish people were and are sensitive about using the name “God” in vain so they try to avoid using the term whenever they are writing or speaking; they tend to use the term only within the confines of the synagogue...outside of this, they would use a substitute such as *Ha Shem*, “The Name,” or “Heaven” for “God.” Mark wrote to Romans and Luke wrote to Greeks who did not have these sensitivities so they used the expression “Kingdom of God.” (Fruchtenbaum, p 581)

## 5 Facets of the Kingdom Program (From the Book *Israelology* Dr. Arnold Fruchtenbaum)

- A. **Universal/Eternal Kingdom** (time period – all eternity) “emphasizing the sphere and scope as everything is within the sovereign will and control of God.” “The Dispensations are the outworking of this kingdom in human history.” Fruchtenbaum, p 585 (1 Chronicles 29:11-12; Psalm 10:16; 29:10; 74:12; 90:1-6; Jeremiah 10:10; Daniel 4:17,25,32; 6:27; Acts 17:24)
- B. **The Spiritual Kingdom** (time period – creation of Man till the creation of the new earth) “composed of all who have experienced... (salvation by faith) “in all times. This is God’s rule in the heart of the believer.” Fruchtenbaum, holds that this spiritual kingdom “was in existence before the Church began and will continue to exist after the Church is removed in the Rapture.” Covenant/replacement theologians use this to equate the church with O.T saints (Matthew 6:33; 19:16, 23-24; John 3:3-5; Acts 8:12; 20:25; 1 Corinthians 4:20; Colossians 1:13-14; 4:11; 1 Thessalonians 2:12). **Covenant Theology calls all saved by faith the “people of God” thereby replacing Israel and the exclusive Davidic Covenant/Kingdom with the Church.** Certainly, Abel was saved by faith before any covenant and the thief on the cross was the last person saved by faith under the Mosaic Covenant in Dispensation of law. The 14,440 Tribulation witnesses and their converts will be saved by faith. (Revelation 7:4-8; 14:1-3) **Just because they are in the spiritual kingdom of the rule of God in their hearts doesn’t place either of them within the Church in this dispensation of Grace during the “mystery Kingdom,” as explained later.**
- C. **The Theocratic Kingdom** (time period Exodus 19 – 2 Chronicles 36) “was established by Moses in a **mediatorial form** then later by David in a **monarchial form.**” “God first ruled Israel through mediators ie: Moses, Joshua, Samuel. God ruled Israel through monarchs from Saul, the first king of Israel until Zedekiah, the last king. Within the decline, (of the monarchial kingdom), the prophets began announcing a future form, a better form of God’s kingdom program which would be the Messianic Kingdom. Finally, the Theocratic Kingdom came to an end with the Babylonian destruction of Jerusalem. **With Babylon, the Theocratic Kingdom came to an end.” (The Times of the Gentiles began, and ends with the restoration of the Kingdom to Israel).** Fruchtenbaum, p 586
- D. **The Messianic or Millennial Kingdom** (initiated with redeemed Israel at the end of the Tribulation beginning the 1000 year reign of Jesus on earth) “This was the kingdom Jesus offered to the Jewish people and was rejected. As a result of the rejection, the offer was rescinded or taken away from that generation...and was postponed” (Acts 1:6,7). **“This rejection was part of God’s plan and the means by which the Messiah would die to provide the atonement and by which the gospel would extend to the gentiles (Isaiah 49:1-13).** The Messianic Kingdom will be reoffered to the remnant Jewish generation of the Tribulation, which will accept it.”  
“So all Israel shall be saved.” (Romans 11:26; Zachariah 12:10; Jeremiah 31:31)  
(see Matthew 21:43 **The Kingdom was not taken from Israel and given to gentiles ie: The Church, but taken from that generation of Jews and given to the generation of Jews that “sees all these things” in the Tribulation. Matthew 24:33)** Fruchtenbaum, p 587
- E. **The Mystery Kingdom** (time period – between the two comings of the Messiah) , ending at the conclusion of the Tribulation. **“in the days of the 7<sup>th</sup> angel the mystery of God should be finished” (Revelation 10:7; Matthew 13; Ephesians 3:3-5,9; Colossians 1:26-27).** “A New Testament *mystery* is a divine truth which was not revealed in the Old Testament. “*even* the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints.” **The nine parables of Matthew chapter 13 describe the Mystery Kingdom.** (compare Mark 4:1-34; Luke 8:4-18) **Notice the Satanically inspired confusion and corruption plaguing the Mystery Kingdom time period described in Matthew 13.** The Tares are sown by the wicked one growing with the good wheat (13:24-33). Evil birds will nest in the branches of the giant mustard tree (13:31-32). There will be leaven like corruption (13:33). Bad fish will be culled from the dragnet (13:47). **Since the mystery kingdom is a spiritual kingdom people**

are easily deceived by counterfeit, external visible, physical, religious forms of godliness that deny the spiritual power thereof. The abundance of counterfeits gives proof of a genuine worship in “spirit and in truth.” Therefore after the charge of blasphemy (Mathew 12:24) by the elders of Israel Jesus emphasized to His disciples that kingdom is “within you” (Luke 17:21). Fruchtenbaum, p 588

Much confusion happens because The Mystery Kingdom was not “kept distinct from the other facets.” Sadly, the early Church theologians from Augustine, Chrysostom, to the Covenant/replacement theologians namely Luther and Calvin were all deeply anti-Semitic and assumed that the “Kingdom taken from” Israel was given to Gentile, so called “Christian” nations. This was the arrogance that was warned against by Paul (Romans 11:17-25). They made a mess of the Mystery, Spiritual Kingdom theology by mixing up the Theocratic, Messianic and Spiritual Kingdoms. Would to God the reformers had repented of their theological anti-Semitism with the same intensity they rejected salvation by works, rituals and indulgences. They established the “Five Solas” Sufficiency of Scripture Alone, Salvation by Grace Alone through Faith Alone in Christ alone for the Glory of God Alone. **Would to God they had adopted a 6<sup>th</sup> “Sola Yehuda Regnum”– Israel’s Kingdom Alone.** “The Mystery Kingdom is not the same as the Eternal Kingdom, because it is limited in time between the first and second coming.” It is not the same as the Theocratic Kingdom because it is not limited to one nation, the nation of Israel, but involves both Jews and Gentiles.” Fruchtenbaum, p 589. It is different from the Messianic Kingdom because that was well known through prophecy and was no mystery at all.

**Conclusion** We are living in the Mystery/Spiritual Kingdom Era with Christ’s the LORD of LORD’s Rule in our hearts. HE CURRENTLY IS SEATED AT THE RIGHT HAND OF THE THRONE OF GOD. 1 Tim. 6:14,15. His role was Like Moses the Prophet, His current role is our Great High Priest. (Hebrews 4:14; 7:25-27) At Christ’s second Advent the Tribulation will cease at the establishment of the Messianic Kingdom of Jesus through Israel (Daniel 2:44,45; Revelation 19:1-16). He will then rule as King of redeemed Israel and King of all Kings. (Rev. 17:14;19:16) The last statement the resurrected Jesus made about the Kingdom after 40 days of teaching the disciples about The Kingdom was, “It is not for you to know the times or the season which the Father hath put in His power...” During the present time that Paul describes as the “Mystery,” Jesus said, “ye shall be witnesses unto me” (Acts 1:7,8), until the time that His eternal kingdom comes. **How is it that we focus so in the coming King of Kings at the end of the Tribulation, when every unbelieving knee shall bow, and call Him Lord but do not bow our wills do the things He has already commanded as the LORD of LORDS?**